

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Aaron Raulan Stratton,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	Civil Action No. 5:18-1674-BHH
)	
Andrew M. Saul,)	<u>ORDER</u>
Commissioner of Social Security,)	
)	
Defendant.)	
_____)	

On May 5, 2020, counsel for Plaintiff filed a motion for attorney's fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 406(b). Specifically, counsel requests reimbursement for representation provided in the above-captioned case in the amount of \$14,945.65. As required by 42 U.S.C. § 406(b), the amount requested by counsel is not greater than twenty-five percent (25%) of the past-due benefits recovered by Plaintiff.

On May 8, 2020, counsel for the Acting Commissioner of Social Security ("Commissioner") filed a response to the motion, indicating that the Commissioner does not object to the motion and clarifying that the requested fees are for court time only. (ECF No. 33.)

The Court has reviewed the motion and exhibits and finds that counsel's request for fees is reasonable. Accordingly, IT IS **ORDERED** that Plaintiff's counsel's motion for attorney's fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 406(b) (ECF No. 32) is **GRANTED**. Plaintiff's counsel shall refund to Plaintiff the amount of fees previously awarded under the Equal

Access to Justice Act (“EAJA”), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d).¹

IT IS SO ORDERED.

/s/Bruce H. Hendricks
The Honorable Bruce Howe Hendricks
United States District Judge

May 11, 2020
Charleston, South Carolina

¹ Plaintiff received \$4,500.00 in attorney’s fees under EAJA, and Plaintiff’s counsel must refund to Plaintiff the amount of fees already received. (ECF No. 31.) See *Gisbrecht v. Barnhart*, 535 U.S. 789, 796 (2002) (noting that fees may be awarded under both § 406(b) and EAJA but that the claimant’s attorney must refund to the claimant the amount of the smaller fee) (internal quotations and citation omitted); *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 130 S.Ct. 2521, 2528 (2010).